

Please ensure that the ABC has all the resources needed to meet the requirements of its charter.

We have been so lucky to have had such a quality service including a trustworthy media organisation that helps us maintain our democracy.

However we are rapidly losing the ABC as the innovator and producer of diverse programs of cultural value and intellectual integrity that it is meant to be.

It's very worrying that the ABC has closed its acclaimed Natural History Unit and outsourced all TV documentary and drama. Furthermore the ABC now plans to sack program-makers and outsource more television production to the private sector.

The ABC management plans to axe *The New Inventors* and 'rest' *Collectors*. It will axe *Art Nation* (its only TV arts magazine program) and disband its TV arts unit. This will seriously diminish the ABC's role as an archivist of important Australian artistic achievements.

The ABC plans to close TV production units altogether in some states.

Australia's public broadcaster is being transformed into a platform for programs that are made by the same companies that make commercial television content, and with an eye to commercial sales after first screening on the ABC. **Radio Arts:** Changes that will reduce Radio National arts programming by almost one-sixth are also being considered at this time.

The ABC should be a producer of innovative quality programming in all areas. Please ensure that:

- ▶ the ABC be less dependent on outsourced programming
- ▶ the ABC be funded and rebuilt so that it has strong specialist units to produce high levels of high quality and genuinely local in-house programming in all program genres on radio, TV and online
- ▶ is a public broadcaster focused on diversity and quality, not ratings

Yours sincerely,

Marguerite Marshall